

# East Haddam events

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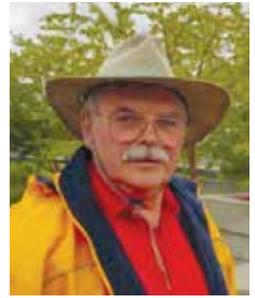
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# First Selectman's Corner

## Captain George Comer Celebration

East Haddam has been home to many unique and notable residents. Their exploits and achievements weave a fascinating history for our town. Later this year we will be commemorating one of the most intriguing. Captain George Comer was a true swashbuckler on the high seas. His exploits rival anything ever shown on the silver screen and especially so for his adventures in the Canadian Arctic. Between 1876 and 1919 he spent well over half his life at sea. As a self-taught ornithologist and anthropologist he took advantage of his journeys to collect information and specimens, of every description, for numerous institutions and museums. These included the Peabody, the American Museum of Natural History, the University of Pennsylvania and many others. A memorial in his memory was erected in 1938 on land donated to the state of Connecticut by his family. It is located on Mount Parnassus Road adjacent to the Harris Homestead and our community garden. In September we will be rededicating that memorial. The Canadian Government has committed to sending a delegation which will include Bernadette Dean, a native Inuit who is a descendant of Naviatsinaq, also known as Shoofly, an Inuit woman whom Captain Comer was close to. The Smithsonian has made overtures to attend and Mystic Seaport will be sending a delegation and doing presentations. Joanne Rocznik together with Captain Comer's great grandson Thomas Comer have taken the lead in organizing the event.

The East Haddam Historical Society, The East Haddam Garden Club and the East Haddam Land Trust have committed to supporting where needed. When technical help is needed our Public Works Department will be involved. Please stay tuned, this should be a great opportunity to learn more about our marvelous town while honoring one of its more colorful ancestors.



Emmett J. Lyman  
First Selectman

## Read Across America

One of the fringe benefits of my job is being invited into our schools on a regular basis. Late this winter that opportunity came to me twice as part of the "Read Across America" program. On February 27th I read "Where the Wild Things Are" (my choice) by Maurice Sendak to the assembled 1st grade class in our Elementary School. This was very special, for me, since my grand-daughter, Avery, is in that class. It's a fun book to read with youngsters and we had a great time. My thanks go out to Ms. Sweeney for arranging this wonderful opportunity. On March 6th I was invited to the assembled 6th grade in our new Middle School. The book I was assigned (no choice here) was "Starry Messenger" by Peter Sis.

continued on page 3



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# events

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18 Industrial Park Road, P.O.Box 205  
Centerbrook, CT 06409

860-767-9087 Fax 860-767-0259  
email: print@essexprinting.com  
www.essexprinting.com

**PUBLISHER**

William E. McMinn

**ART DIRECTOR**

Kathy Alsop 860-391-4372  
kathy@eventsmagazines.com

**COVER EDITOR**

AC Proctor 860-767-9087

**LAYOUT & AD DESIGN**

Lynne Hardt

**SALES REPRESENTATIVES**

**VERNON • TOLLAND**

**ELLINGTON • WILLINGTON**  
Tom Fortin 860-299-4568  
tom@eventsmagazines.com

**ESSEX • WESTBROOK**

**CLINTON • MADISON**  
Ward Feirer 914-806-5500  
wfeirer@gmail.com

**OLD SAYBROOK • OLD LYME • EAST LYME**

Betty Martelle 860-333-7117  
betty@eventsmagazines.com

**CHESTER • EAST HADDAM**

**EAST HAMPTON • HADDAM**  
Sue Smith 860-885-9670  
sue@eventsmagazines.com

**GUILFORD • STONINGTON**

Essex Printing 860-767-9087  
print@essexprinting.com

**Cover Photo**

Dorothy Gibb

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## Holiday Closings

The Town Office Building will be closed on:

Monday, May 29, Memorial Day  
Tuesday, July 4, Independence Day

The Transfer Station will be closed on:

Monday, May 29, Memorial Day  
Regular hours will resume on  
the next business day.

## First Selectman's Corner...

continued from page 1



The book is a wonderful collection of vintage pictures, quotations by Galileo, comments about his times and cosmic

pictorial renderings. It is all juxtaposed and twisted together making it necessary to constantly turn the book in every direction while reading. I thought I knew Galileo's story pretty well but was surprised that much of the included information was new to me. As a lifelong reader I found the "Read Across America" program to be very encouraging. With any luck it will start others on the same wonderful journey which I've experienced with a lifetime of books.

### Old Middle School

It's been a long time coming but the renovation of our Old Middle School to Municipal Office Space is, as you've no doubt noticed, at last underway. Phase I encompasses demolition of the Ray portion of the building and preparation of the remaining structure for conversion to offices. Phase II will then commence with refurbishing of the building for our future use. With a few special exceptions almost all town business will eventually take place within its walls. In addition to the regular daily business most evening meetings, elections and park and recreation indoor activities will be included. It is still anticipated that the project will be completed before the end of 2017 with occupancy following as quickly as possible. Most of the needed furnishings are already in storage; they are new and unused, a generous donation from a party who wishes to remain unnamed. While there are 19 diseased and poorly located trees being removed, plans call for 40 new trees and shrubs to be added. In the end this will be a great new use for a very special and historically significant building as well as an attractive addition to our community.

### Spring Hike

Spring is well underway and summer not far off. Why not get out and enjoy our beautiful town while it is at its best. If you need a suggestion why not visit Machimoodus State Park? Located on route 196 adjacent to the Connecticut River it offers trails through field and forest. The views of the river are amongst the best you'll find and wildlife abounds making this park a photographer's paradise. Easy to get to with recreation for every taste, why not pack a picnic lunch and enjoy the day?

Emmett J. Lyman, First Selectman

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## From the Assessor

I would like to remind all residents that the town is conducting a town-wide revaluation. Representatives of Vision Government Solutions, the company the town has hired for the revaluation, will be out inspecting properties until November. The representatives carry identification and have signs on their motor vehicles. Letters will be sent later in the year to property owners who were not home at the time of inspection so they can make an appointment for an inspection. More information is on the town website at easthaddam.org.

The Assessor's Office is accepting applications for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Renters Rebate Program up to October 1, 2017. Applicant's total income must not exceed \$35,200 for a single person, \$42,900 for a couple (joint income), including Social Security and Medicare. Applicants must be 65 or older or totally disabled and bring all income, rent, and utility information from 2016.

In addition, the deadline for filing for the Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowners Program is May 15, 2017. Qualifying income and age requirements for the Homeowners Program and Additional Veterans Benefits is the same as the Elderly and Totally Disabled Renters Rebate Program. There is also, by local option, an additional tax credit to homeowners 65 and older whose household income does not exceed \$50,000 (including

Social Security). Applicants must bring proof of income including Social Security for 2016. Applications for the Additional Veterans Benefits will be accepted until October 1, 2017.

As the Tax Collector's Office prepares the July tax bills, those residents whose motor vehicles have been sold, stolen, totaled, or who have moved out-of-state may be eligible for a pro-ration of their car taxes.

Two forms of proof are necessary to pro-rate or remove a vehicle from the grand list. Residents must bring a copy of the plate receipt issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles at the time of cancellation of registration, and a copy of one of the following; bill of sale, transfer of title, receipt from junkyard, notification of total loss, trade-in papers, or some other document showing the date on which the vehicle was disposed.

The Assessor's office has its own web page on the town website. Included is information on real estate, personal property, and motor vehicle assessments; property tax relief for seniors, veterans, and the disabled; renters' rebate; information on revaluation; access to applications and forms pertaining to the Assessor's office.

Loreta Zdanys, CCMA II, East Haddam Assessor

## EVENTS PRESENTS ~ SHAGBARK

Shagbark Lumber & Farm Supplies, Inc., established in 1986, is starting their 31st year in business serving the East Haddam community. From the outside it appears that Shagbark has changed a lot. Its physical footprint has grown but the core Shagbark principles remain very much the same. "Meet the needs of the community, be a good neighbor, and the customer is always right! After all, we are here because the customer pays the light bill," according to owner Fred Hunt.

With this in mind, Shagbark is embarking on its newest endeavor, a solar farm to supply electricity to East Haddam's three schools. Shagbark is excited to see this project come to fruition. The farm's long-time agricultural pursuits combined with energy programs implemented by the State of Connecticut paved the way for Shagbark to pursue this development. The Solar Farm allows Shagbark to repurpose land that would not otherwise be utilized, and use it for a very positive result in benefiting the community. Drive by the store and you will see these changes from the street.

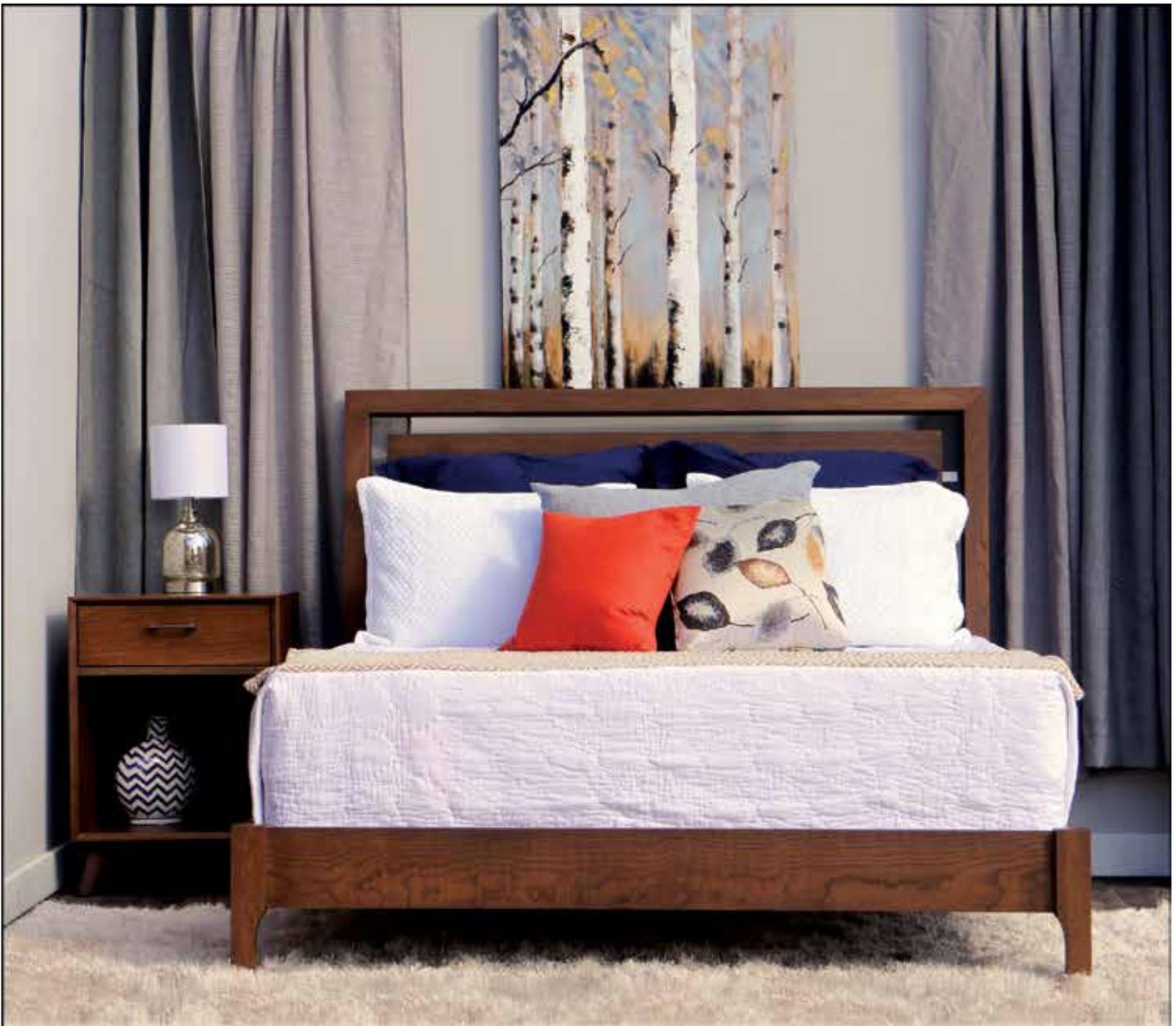
Shagbark prides itself on its knowledgeable and helpful staff, which is always prepared to provide you with all the tools you need for a project. From pet and farm supplies to cleaning supplies, from specialty organic lawn care to lumber and millwork, the Shagbark staff is ready, willing and able to serve your every need. If it is services you are seeking, at Shagbark you can have knives sharpened, glass cut, small engines repaired, a kitchen designed and paint color(s) matched. Shagbark will test your pool water, re-do your screens, and rekey your locks. Let's not forget you can mail a UPS package while you're filling your propane for a barbecue. You can even purchase a new barbecue grill for that matter. So, the next time you are in the neighborhood, stop in, say "hello," visit awhile, and enjoy the popcorn, "it's free!"



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860.873.1946 [www.shagbarklumber.com](http://www.shagbarklumber.com)



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# Budget Information

The Board of Finance has delayed the budget Public Hearing, Town Meeting and Referendum by approximately three weeks to enable the Board of Finance to have better information available from the legislature to establish their expense and revenue budgets and the resulting mill rate. The delayed schedule is as follows:

DATE/LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Wednesday, May 10, 2017 7:00 pm Nathan Hale-Ray High School	Budget Public Hearing
Wednesday, May 24, 2017 8:00 pm Town Hall	Annual Town Budget Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2017 Time to be Determined Town Hall	Budget Referendum

# Hadlyme Hall Garden Club

The Hadlyme Hall Garden Club has scheduled the following programs for May and June, 2017:

**Tuesday, May 23 - Garden Tending Demonstration & Plant Swap**

**Tuesday, June 27 - Succulent Wreaths Workshop and talk on succulents.**

Meetings are held at the Hadlyme Public Hall at 6:00 pm. Anyone who is interested in gardening is invited to attend our meetings and may contact Ellen Fennema at [ellen.fennema@att.net](mailto:ellen.fennema@att.net) for more information.

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## Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade will step off at 10 am on Monday, May 29. Due to the construction for the conversion of the old Middle School to Town Offices the parade is currently scheduled to stage on and leave from W. F. Palmer Road instead of its usual starting point of the old Middle School and soon to be new Municipal Office Complex. We will post all modifications to the parade staging and route on the town's website [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org).

All community groups are encouraged to join the parade. If you have any questions, please call the Selectmen's Office at (860) 873-5021. If you aren't a marcher, please join us on the sidelines. It is a great community event!

## Music on the River 2017

Here is a sneak peak of the line-up for Music on the River 2017

July 17 Plywood Cowboy  
July 24 Shoregrass  
July 31 Dizzy River Band  
August 7 Neal and the Vipers  
August 14 Don Bryant  
August 21 Harbor Moon

All concerts are 6:30-8:30 pm on the green at the Goodspeed Opera House. Donations can be sent to East Haddam Parks and Recreation, PO Box 278, East Haddam, CT 06423. Watch for the Park & Recreation mailer containing more detailed information on this year's performers.

## Eightmile River Watershed

The Eightmile River Watershed is a world-class outdoor classroom and a place where educational adventures are just waiting to happen. Sometimes a small infusion of cash at just the right time is all that's needed to get a great idea for an outdoor experience off the ground.

With that in mind, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee has created a Community Small Grant Program. If you are an educator, a community leader, a civic group organizer... really anyone... with an idea for a program or project that supports education and outreach to the local community about our amazing watershed, and if \$50 to \$300 would make your idea happen, we want to hear from you.

If you visit our website at [www.eightmileriver.org](http://www.eightmileriver.org) and click on Eightmile River Small Grant Application on the home page, you can read the types of programs that would qualify, and you can fill out a simple application. We have a very special resource right here in our backyard. Let's work together to take advantage of it.

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# Town Clerk

## DOG LICENSES



Dog licenses are renewable each year in the month of June. Licenses are required for EVERY dog over 6 months of age. The cost for a dog license is \$8.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$19.00 for a dog that has not been altered. Current law assesses a \$1.00 late penalty per month. In addition to being the law, a license serves as a ticket home should your pet become lost. An unlicensed dog may also subject the owner to an infraction.

Reminder notices will be mailed to licensed dog owners at the end of May. If sending in your payment via the mail, please include any updated paperwork; it will be returned to you with the license.

If you have any questions regarding licensing your dog, please contact:

Deb Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk 860-873-5027  
or Mike Olzacki, East Haddam Animal Control Officer  
860-873-5044

Thank you.

License #1 and #2 will be reserved for the winner and runner up chosen by the students at the Nathan Hale Ray Middle School in the annual Number One Dog tag contest.

## NUMBER ONE DOG TAG CONTEST

Please submit a photo of your dog, along with the following information by May 19th:

1. Owner's name, address, phone number, and email address
2. Pet's name, age, and breed

Submit entry to:

TOWN CLERK, PO BOX K, 7 MAIN STREET  
EAST HADDAM, CT 06423

or e-mail to [townclerk@easthaddam.org](mailto:townclerk@easthaddam.org)

Photos will be compiled and forwarded to the Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School for voting.

The contest is designed to promote the importance of licensing your dog; the students have a lot of fun judging the contest.

Licenses are required pursuant to Connecticut law for all dogs over 6 months of age.

The winner and the runner up will receive the #1 and #2 tag (rabies vaccine must be up to date); license fees will be paid by the Town Clerk's Office.

Photos will not be returned, so please retain a copy if it's a favorite photo.



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## ABSENTEE BALLOTS For REFERENDUM

### Did you know?

An elector may vote by absentee ballot due to:

- (1) the elector's absence from their town for all of the hours of voting;
- (2) illness or physical disability;
- (3) active service in the US armed forces;
- (4) religious tenets forbid secular activity on Election Day; or
- (5) service as a polling place official in a town other than their own.

When a Referendum is called with less than three weeks' notice (Town meeting calls the Referendum) different criteria for the issuance of absentee balloting result. Also, at referendum a non-registered taxpayer may vote if they are an American citizen and own property on the last published grand list valued over \$1,000. The Town Clerk is statutorily charged to have ballots available within four business days after the question(s) to be voted on are finalized.

Absentee balloting is a two-step process. The ballot may not be issued until an application for the ballot has been received. At a referendum called with less than three weeks' notice, ballots cannot be mailed.

For additional information, or to obtain the application for an absentee ballot, call 860-873-5027 or come into the Town Clerk's Office. Forms may also be downloaded from the town's website [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org) (elections under Town Clerk) or [www.sots.ct.gov](http://www.sots.ct.gov) (elections & voting, voter resources, absentee ballot and procedures, application for ballot).

Debra H. Denette  
East Haddam Town Clerk

## Tax Collector

The Tax Office is busy preparing for the mailing of the 2016 Grand List tax bills. All bills will be in the mail June 30, 2017 with a due date of July 1, 2017, payable by August 1, 2017 without interest. Payments by mail must be postmarked by August 1, 2017 to avoid interest. (Providing the budget passes at referendum on June 6, 2017)

If you still owe taxes on the 2015 Grand List, an attempt should be made to clear up the back taxes before the new bills come out. Liens will be placed on all outstanding Real Estate balances in May. This is an additional charge.

Tax payments may be made in person, by mail or online. Office hours are; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am - noon. There is a secure Lock Box in the front alcove, which is available during non-business hours.

continued on page 10



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## Tax Collector... continued from page 9

Our online payment service, Point and Pay, is available to all taxpayers who wish to pay tax bills by e-check, credit or debit. There is fee of 2.95% on all credit/debit transactions. The fee for e-check is \$2.95 per transaction. These fees apply to all online, over the phone and in office payments.

To pay taxes or inquire taxes online, go to [easthaddam.org](http://easthaddam.org) and click the link "Pay Taxes Online."

This office is for the collection of taxes only. Any adjustments to your bill must be made by the Assessor. Email: [assessor@easthaddam.org](mailto:assessor@easthaddam.org). Phone: 860-873-5026

The Tax office may be reached at 860-873-5033 or email: [taxcollector@easthaddam.org](mailto:taxcollector@easthaddam.org).

Denise Dill CCMC  
Tax Collector

## Registrars of Voters

The East Haddam Registrars of Voters are in the process are conducting the annual Canvass of Voters to determine changes of residence. A National Change of Address System was developed by the United States Postal Service to reduce undeliverable mail. We receive this list for residents who have either moved to a new address in East Haddam, another town in Connecticut or to another state. Notifications are sent to those voters on the list requesting them to confirm whether or not they still reside

in East Haddam. This process allows us to keep our Voter List as current as possible. Voters cannot be removed from the Voter List unless we receive confirmation. Voters who received this notification and do not respond become Inactive on our Voter List.

The Registrars will be conducting a Voter Registration Session at the High School to register students who will be 18 years of age by the November 7th Municipal Election. If students register in a major party

and a primary is held, they are eligible to vote in their respective party primary.

The Budget Referendum will be held on June 6th at the Old Town Hall on Town Street. All registered voters are eligible to vote. Property owners who are not registered to vote in East Haddam may vote if they are US citizens and own property valued at \$1,000 as listed on the last completed Grand List.

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## Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group (MRPG)

*We are a charitable organization whose mission is to improve the quality of Moodus Reservoir through programs to control invasive weeds and combat lake pollutants.*

Our 2017 annual meeting will be held in June. Notice will be given via FaceBook, our website, internet news and local print media. All East Haddam residents are welcome to attend. Reports will be given on recent accomplishments, current lake conditions and plans for action. Members as of the meeting date will elect officers and trustees for the ensuing year - July 1, 2017 to March, 2018. New members may join and current members may pay dues anytime via our website, as well as at the meeting. Only members will be allowed to vote.

Surveys of Moodus Reservoir by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (caes) may be viewed at [www.ct.gov/caes](http://www.ct.gov/caes). Click on "Invasive Aquatic Plant Program," then go to Moodus Reservoir. There is also a great deal of information about lake maintenance on this site.

If you trailer your boat or any other boating vessels, then you need to visit this website: [http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/boating/boating\\_guide/part6.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/boating/boating_guide/part6.pdf).

Copy and paste this site onto your browser for legal requirements to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species (plants and water life), prevent damage to your motor (zebra mussels) and avoid violation fines.

MRPG, a 501c3 non-profit, welcomes anyone who would like to become a member. For information email us at Moodus.Reservoir@gmail.com, visit our website at www.moodusreservoir.org and see us on FaceBook.

## Harvest House Community Dinner at St. Stephen's Church

The best kept secret in town is the dinner served every Sunday at 5:00 pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Top area cooks from different organizations or families take turns preparing the meals which are served in the parish hall. The dinner, which is free and open to all, is an opportunity to have a delicious meal while providing a chance to meet with others in the community.

Everyone knows that community and church suppers are the best, and many churches and community groups take turns preparing this meal. Among the groups regularly cooking are the First Church Congregational, Haddam Congregational, the Knights of Columbus, Moodus Sportsmen's Club, The Democratic Town Committee, The Republican Town Committee, Moodus United Methodist, St. Bridget's Religious Education, St. Bridget's Ladies Guild, East Haddam Ladies Book Club, and St. Stephen's Vestry, Higganum Congregational Church, Youth & Family Services and many individual families. Harvest House served its first meal in 2009 and, by the end of 2016, has served a total of 13, 091 meals.



The smiling team for Sunday, March 26, 2017's meal. From Left to Right: Janet Whitty, Michael Whitty, and Judith Leach.

This is a free dine-in meal for the community, so all are welcome. Stop in and join us any Sunday!



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## NHRHS Project Graduation

The support for Project Graduation during the 2016-17 school year has been tremendous!! High School Graduation is a significant milestone and each year, East Haddam parents, students, community members, businesses and organizations join forces to ensure that Hale-Ray graduates celebrate safely. NHRHS Project Graduation is sponsored by EH Youth & Family Services and our committee is proud to work with EHYFS to be able to promote family friendly events throughout the school year to raise a significant portion of our fundraising goal. The substance-free all night event we organize for our grads simply

could not take place without the community support we receive for events such as our Car Show, Trivia Night, the \$5 Raffle and the Dan LaRosa Show. Community sponsors generously donate the remaining portion of funds required. We would like to recognize our top supporters for this year: Nathan Hale Pharmacy, the East Haddam Police Union and Dutch Oil Company Inc. In addition to these major sponsors, the 2017 Project Grad Committee would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has contributed to helping us host a safe celebration that our graduates will never forget!



Audience participants take a bow after being hypnotized at the Dan LaRosa show.

## Project Graduation Supporters

Project Graduation Committee 2017 would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts! Thank You for supporting our mission to provide a fantastic, substance-free, overnight party that is open to all Graduates!

Project Graduation is proud to be sponsored and supported by East Haddam Youth & Family Services.

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*We invite you to learn more about how you can support your community. Visit us at [www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org](http://www.MiddlesexCountyCF.org) or call us at 860-347-0025.*



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### **Diamond Level**

**(\$1000-\$2000+)**

Nathan Hale Pharmacy  
Dutch Oil Company Inc. LLC  
East Haddam Police Union

### **Platinum Level (\$500-\$999)**

East Haddam Lions Club  
Covenant Kitchen & Bath  
Nathan Hale-Ray Alumni  
Lake of Isles Golf Course  
Mohegan Sun Golf Club  
Sullivan Paving Co. Inc.

### **Gold Level (\$250-\$499)**

Anytime Fitness of Colchester  
Banner Total Fitness Gym  
Chasing Classic Cars-Wayne Carini  
Coca-Cola  
EH Youth and Family Services  
EB Exterminating  
Fox Hopyard Golf Club  
Jackson Chevrolet Co.  
Maus & Son, Inc  
MP Impressions LLC  
Quarry Ridge Golf Course  
Rock Oil LLC  
Salem Valley Farms Ice Cream  
Village Pizza Family Restaurant

### **Silver Level (\$100-\$249)**

Anytime Fitness of Colchester  
American Legion Auxillary Post 156  
Baron-Smith-Golec American Legion Post 156  
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East Haddam Leos  
East Haddam Elementary PTO  
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East Hampton Lions Club  
Essex Steam Train & Riverboat  
F-40 Motors- Mike Roberts  
Goodspeed Musicals  
Grand View Camp Resort  
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Malloves Jewelers  
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Crepe Hut  
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Dove Chocolate- Jessica Sorrajja  
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Stop & Shop- East Hampton  
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# East Haddam Stage Company ~ 9th Summer Season at Gillette State Castle

The East Haddam Stage Company (EHSCO) is proud to announce that this coming summer 2017, their 9th season of producing live theatre at the park, is their first under the new designation of Resident Theatre Company at Gillette Castle State Park.

Over the years, EHSCO has entertained and educated thousands of visitors... local, regional, national and international, at this home of Victorian actor William Gillette, best known as the creator of Sherlock Holmes for the stage. Park Supervisor, Phillip Yuris, and his staff have gone out of their way to help EHSCO deliver quality professional theatre to the park's outdoor stage.

The 2017 season will showcase EHSCO's original comedy / drama *William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth*. Two actors, William Matus and Nicole Morin, embody more than 7 different characters, including Gillette, his wife Helen, Mark Twain, and of course, Sherlock Holmes. Generous sponsorship from East Haddam's own Staehly Farm and Winery, along with Connecticut Humanities grants and support from other Connecticut businesses has allowed EHSCO to offer these shows free to the public since 2008.

Under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Kandie Carle, the 30-minute shows run on Saturday and Sunday only at 1:00 pm



and again at 2:30 pm from July 8th through August 13th, 2017. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like. Wheelchair accessible. Come tour the historic house, explore the grounds and enjoy the show!

Gillette Castle is located at 67 River Road, East Haddam CT. For more information, call EHSCO at 860-873-3521 or go to [www.EHSCO.org](http://www.EHSCO.org) or follow us on Facebook [www.Facebook.com/EastHaddamStageCompany](http://www.Facebook.com/EastHaddamStageCompany).



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Deborah L. Barbi, Esq.  
Terrance D. Lomme,  
of Counsel

31 W.F. Palmer Road  
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Moodus, CT 06469

**Tel: 860-873-1449**

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## BIRDS: They're Coming and East Haddam is ready



Did you know that forest birds nesting in Connecticut have been in decline for 10 years? If you take joy in hearing the wood thrush or the veery or spotting a scarlet tanager, you may have noticed that it's harder and harder to experience these amazing creatures. Scientists tell us that the chief reason is that the habitats they depend on are being carved up and developed. Birds need large blocks of unfragmented forest, both young and old trees, to nest in and raise their families. Here's the good news. We live in an especially important place for the future of nesting birds. Just about half of our town is within the boundaries of something called an Important Bird Area (IBA). Connecticut Audubon has named areas of our state that are key in sustaining the birds we love to see. The Lyme Forest Block IBA takes in parts of East Haddam, Salem, East Lyme, and Old Lyme, and most of Lyme. Connecticut Audubon hopes that, when people realize how important their local landscapes are to birds, we will make better decisions about their future.

If you care about birds, here is something you really can smile about. Eighteen pieces of town-owned open space, managed by your Conservation Commission, are within the IBA. If you are a birder, you will be happy to know that many of these properties have marked trails waiting for you. Here are some of our favorites: the Hatch Lot, The Harris Preserve, the Urbanik Preserve, the Dean Easement, and Patrell, Pizzini, and Boot Rock Preserves. Virtually the entire award-winning Goodwin Trail, that starts right here in East Haddam and ends 14 miles later in East Lyme, is within the IBA. Even if you are not a bird aficionado, you can take pride in the fact that your town is part of something that will sustain wildlife for the future, and that your fellow townspeople had the foresight to protect these parcels from development.

If you would like to manage your own backyard for birds and other wildlife, here are a few tips. Around your yard, plant native vegetation that provides seeds, fruit, and nectar, and hosts butterfly and moths for birds to eat. Try to stamp out invasive species that crowd out native vegetation. Along the edges of your yard, encourage plants and trees of varying heights from grasses to shrubs to small trees to attract a variety of species. Don't be in a hurry to clean up snags and downed brush. Birds love the protection of brush piles. And if you want to experience the birds that will pass through our town or call it home come spring, get our handy hiking trail maps by going to the East Haddam town website, click on Town Boards, find the Conservation Commission, and click on East Haddam Trail Maps. If you want to know more about what the Conservation Commission does and how you can be involved, please email Sue Merrow at Amerrow@snet.net.



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## East Haddam Library System

### *Summer Reading at Your Local Libraries*

This summer, The East Haddam Free Public Library and The Rathbun Free Memorial Library are your destinations for summer reading fun. Kids receive a prize every week plus one big prize at the end of the summer. Teens & adults can enter a free prize drawing when they return their summer reading books to the library.

Going away this summer? Not to worry, the libraries have audio books and DVDs to keep you entertained on your travels. Not to mention thousands of downloadable magazines from Zinio - and ebooks & audio books available through Overdrive. For more information visit [www.easthaddamlibraries.org](http://www.easthaddamlibraries.org), or ask a librarian.

Kids' events are listed below. For teen, adult, and family programs, be sure to pick up a summer reading brochure or check out the calendar on our website. Happy Summer!

**Thursday, June 22 – 11:00 am at the Rathbun – Teddy Bear Picnic:**  
Bring a blanket and relax listening to stories. Everyone will get a bear!

**Tuesday, June 27– 11:00 am at the Rathbun – Balloon Twisting with Christina:**  
Learn how to make a balloon animal! (limit 20 participants)

**Wednesday, June 28 - 7:00 pm at EHFPL - Your Friendly Neighborhood Bats Part One:**  
Outdoor fun for the whole family.

**Thursday, June 29 – 12:00 pm at EHFPL - Teddy Bear Picnic:**  
Everyone will get a bear! (ages 3+)

**Wednesday, July 5 - 4:00 pm at EHFPL - Build a flying saucer solar light:**  
Lights & discs provided.

**Thursday, July 13 – 11:00 am at the Rathbun – Mr. Joe:**  
Sing, laugh and have fun with Mr. Joe!

**Thursday, July 13 - 6:00 pm at EHFPL - New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary** presents “Parrot Confidential” Documentary

**Monday, July 17– 11:00 am at the Rathbun – Color your own flower pot** and fill it with seeds!

**Saturday, July 22 - 11:00 am at EHFPL - Magic Show**

**Monday, July 24 - 6:00 pm at EHFPL - “Build a Better Future”**  
Origami w/Claudia

**Wednesday, July 26– 2:00 pm at the Rathbun – Build your own paper neighborhood:** Color and put together.

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# East Haddam Public Schools

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the East Haddam School District is to develop a community of lifelong learners who are prepared to become independent, creative and productive citizens for our diverse and ever-changing global society.

## There's an APP for that!

There was a time when if you wanted to have your blood pressure taken, you would need to find a medical trained person that had with them a stethoscope, a blood pressure collar, and pump. Not now. Today you can walk into the grocery store and by the time you sit down and put your arm through a slot, your blood pressure, weight, pulse, and shopping trends have been recorded. This one simple activity now incorporates the use of computer programming, electrical engineering, data analysis, information systems just to name a few. As a district we continue to increase our students' access to technology and the real world applications in an effort to prepare them for this new reality. By the time our students graduate, they will have the opportunity to design three dimensional products with Computer Aided Drafting and a 3D Printer. In addition, students will have the experience of developing a smartphone application to solve a daily problem identified from their own research. Through the building of applications, we have recently expanded our programs to include all the skills necessary to write software that supports not only the devices we use now, but those devices that our students have yet to design. These are exciting times to be in education.

Thank you for reading this article and if you are interested to see some examples of our students work, please visit our website at [www.easthaddamschools.org](http://www.easthaddamschools.org).

~Brian S. Reas, Superintendent of Schools

Nathan Hale Ray High School Participating in a New England Robotics Competition. See our High School page for more!



HAVE  
2017-2018 BUDGET QUESTIONS?  
EMAIL US AT:

[BUDGET.QUESTIONS@EASTHADDAMSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:BUDGET.QUESTIONS@EASTHADDAMSCHOOLS.ORG)

## Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

May 9th —7pm— HS Café  
June 13th —7 pm—HS Café

A complete listing of the Board's regular and subcommittee meetings can be found on our website: <http://www.easthaddamschools.org/>



# East Haddam Elementary



Principal  
Joanne Collins

Telephone: 860-873-5076



## COMING EVENTS

May 5  
Basket Bash

May 18  
World Language Showcase

May 19  
The NED Show

May 31  
Spring Concert

PTO Meetings:  
7:00 pm Room 304  
5/25/2016

The mild winter weather made it more pleasant for many families to often bring their young children into our Family Resource Center! Additionally, Read Across America week was a huge success, with PTO school volunteers to support the excitement! All PreK through third graders enjoyed listening to special read-aloud stories from guest readers, including First Selectman, Mr. Lyman, Board of Education Secretary, Mr. Piscioti, Superintendent, Mr. Reas, Principal Peacock, Author Virginia Matthews, and Principal Collins in addition to teachers, paras, and students' relatives reading to students that week. Storyteller Ann Shapiro presented stories through music and movement to all in culminating assemblies, followed by Reading Buddy-pairing of our youngest and oldest students who sat together and exchanged stories, smiles, and conversation! So much fun for this school community and coordinated by the Library/Media Specialist, Mrs. Chlebowski, who worked closely with Lead Teacher, Mrs. Lilburn, to promote Student Councils' suggestions for Seuss Spirit Week, starting with Monday's Cat in The Hat day so everyone could wear their special hats in school and Tuesday's Fox in Socks, crazy socks day! The elementary school's PTO sponsors numerous educational events to boost a positive school climate! During parent/teacher conferences, caring PTO volunteers provided a special dinner for teachers working late into the evening; they also hosted a wonderful bus driver appreciation breakfast where drivers received special messages of gratitude written in students' cards! The PTO/Staff Basketball Jam in March brought many community members together, including Board of Education members, our Superintendent of Schools, students, parents, staff, and lots of family members. The elementary school is grateful to the community and PTO for their ongoing support; all students are involved in these events and cultural arts presentations, including the Children's Museum of West Hartford presentation for first graders below.



# Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School



Principal  
Jason Peacock

Assistant Principal  
Roy Parker

Telephone: 860-873-5081

## COMING EVENTS

May 1  
MPAC Meeting

May 16-19  
8th Grade to Washington DC

May 11  
Spring Choral Concert  
(held at the High School)

May 24  
4/5th Grade Spring Choral Concert



Nathan Hale Ray  
Middle School  
Environmental Club



The Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School Environmental Club led by teacher-advisors Noah Ventola and Shaleen Thody was awarded a grant in 2016 from the Rockfall Foundation of Middletown, CT. The grant was for a two-year project to expand a student-built hiking trail and school garden on the grounds of the middle school. Last November, at a reception at the deKoven House in Middletown student leader, Nathan Botting, presented the project and accepted the award for the school.

The project is nearing completion this spring. Some new additions to the trail and garden areas include: a picnic area with three picnic tables, wooden benches for resting along the trail, tree-identification signs, trail-maps and information kiosks, a small foot bridge, a butterfly garden, and new posts and fencing for an expanded garden. The trail and garden will allow teachers from all disciplines to access outdoor education on campus. The project aims to teach students in grades 4-8 about trail construction, local flora and fauna, and sustainability.

The NHRMS Environmental Club was started in 2013 and has since partnered with the East Haddam Land Trust, the Agricultural Commission, the East Haddam Garden Club, Shagbark Lumber and Ballek's Garden Center to provide students with access to individuals with relevant knowledge and to develop connections with members of these local organizations and businesses. In addition, extra food from the garden is donated in the summer to the East Haddam Food Bank.



# Nathan Hale-Ray High School **NOISES NEWS**



**Principal  
Eric Spencer**

**Assistant Principal  
Michael Regan  
860-873-5065**

**School Counselors  
Mary Little-Finnegan  
Laura Corbet**

### COMING EVENTS

**May 2-10  
Advance Placement  
Testing**

**May 11  
Choral Concerts**

**May 13  
Prom Night**

**May 25  
Underclassmen Awards  
Night 7PM**

**May 31  
Music Dept. Awards  
Banquet**

**June 1  
Senior Awards Night  
5PM**



Congratulations to Ray FFA member Susan Cormier for placing first at the District FFA Public Speaking Contest held at Ledyard High School on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Susan delivered her speech entitled "Bumble Bees, What's the Buzz About?" which addressed the critical status of these important pollinators and what people can do to help. Susan will continue on to compete at the state level at the Connecticut State FFA Convention to be held at Suffield High School on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Unified Sports

Nathan Hale Ray High School's Unified Sports basketball team participated in the SLC Unified Basketball Tournament on March 1<sup>st</sup> at Sports on 66 in East Hampton. The Noises defeated both Valley Regional with a score of 18 - 14 and the East Hampton squad with a score of 30 - 20. Everyone was a winner at this fun event! Our team displayed unbelievable sportsmanship along with their athletic skills. On March 8<sup>th</sup> Unified Sports hosted their first home basketball game versus Coginchaug. The Noises continued their winning streak, beating their opponents with a close score of 60 - 59! Special thanks to Trillium and the Noises cheerleaders for performing at the game and making it a high energy event! The team gives a shout out to all the fans who came out to cheer on Hale Ray and Coginchaug as well, the atmosphere was absolutely electric in the gym and nothing motivates them more than fan support.



## NHRHS ROBOTICS

On February 19<sup>th</sup> the Nathan Hale-Ray High School Robotics Club participated in their second competition at the University of New Haven. Robotics clubs from all around the state and New England gathered at the competition hoping to advance into the alliance section of the competition, ultimately moving on to the Vex Nationals. Students practice many of the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills through participation in the club, such as collaboration, problem solving and creativity. The entire robotics challenge is driven by the design process, which is taught in many of the CTE classes offered at Hale-Ray.

The Team participated in 3 main events; guiding the robot through inspection, competing in the timed rounds, and participating in a skills challenge. The team was pleased to make it through inspection in the first attempt. Students enjoyed the collegial atmosphere and look forward to the next competition!





East Haddam

Youth & Family Services, Inc.

# East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc.

[www.ehyfs.org](http://www.ehyfs.org) ~ 860-873-3296 ~ [youthandfamily@ehyfs.org](mailto:youthandfamily@ehyfs.org)

East Haddam Youth & Family Services, Inc. is a small, non-profit agency that provides services to the entire East Haddam community, always at little or no cost to those being served so that no one is refused services because of inability to pay. We are supported by the town of East Haddam, state and regional grants, donations from citizens, local businesses, civic and faith organizations, and Middlesex United Way.

## Our Mission:

To engage our community in creating a shared vision that supports the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of our youth and the prevention of youth drug and alcohol use through a broad range of programs, services and collaborations.

## Programs and Services:

Positive Youth Development and Leadership programs for High School and Middle School Students - Counseling and Referral - Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Prevention and Education - Holiday Campaign Assistance to those in Need - Juvenile Diversion Board for Youth Offenders - Parent Education and Support - Community Outreach, Education and Organization - Oversight of East Haddam Food and Clothing Banks - Parent Organization to East Haddam Local Prevention Council.

## Collaborations and Partnerships:

State and Local Police - Town of East Haddam - East Haddam Schools - Federal, State and Local Agencies Middlesex United Way - Rushford Center - Project Graduation - Parent and Youth Organizations - Early Education Council - Local Businesses, Civic and Faith Organizations.

## To Learn More:

Telephone: 860-873-3296

Email: [youthandfamily@ehyfs.org](mailto:youthandfamily@ehyfs.org)

## Youth Job Bank

The EHYFS Youth Job Bank is designed to help students, age 12-17, build confidence, gain independence and provide a potential for growth through meaningful work. It is also designed to assist East Haddam residents, churches or civic groups who need help with yard work, babysitting, pet sitting or other light seasonal or temporary labor.

To add your name to our Job Bank directory, an application must be completed and returned to East Haddam Youth & Family Services (P.O. Box 572 Moodus, CT). Forms can be found online at [www.ehyfs.org](http://www.ehyfs.org), or by calling the office during normal business hours.

Please be advised that jobs are available intermittently and sometimes infrequently.

## Save the Date:

Saturday, July 15th

## 4th Annual Summer Palooza



# unplug East Haddam

On Friday March 3rd, over 90 community members joined the East Haddam Local Prevention Council and EHYFS in celebrating the National Day of Unplugging. In the spirit of the day, several members of the EHLPC coordinated three screen-free community events to help community members “disconnect to reconnect” with families and friends. Activities included Bingo at the Grange Hall, a delicious bowl of ice cream courtesy of First Church and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, and a new challenge created by the East Haddam Leos called “Risky-Lifeopoly” at the East Haddam Free Public Library.

The drive behind this event came from information obtained by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). They reported that today’s children average **seven** hours a day on entertainment media, including televisions, computers, phones and other electronic devices. While there are some benefits to the use of technology, too much screen time has been shown to have a negative impact on children’s sleep, academic performance, behavior, social development, and overall health and well-being.

The demands of school, work and social media persuade us to use technology to survive in today’s world. It’s a challenge for all! In our research we have identified some suggestions to help to develop a healthy relationship with technology: turn off televisions and other devices when not in use, avoid using devices as the only way to calm your child, monitor children’s media content, keep a media diary to track family member usage of devices, create a family screen usage schedule, try an electronics-free vacation, have tech-free rooms in your home, and create a family docking station.



## Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in this great event including:

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church; First Church of Christ, Congregational; the East Haddam Leo Club; East Haddam Free Public Library and Youth Helping Youth

## Tech-free ideas to try with your family:

Play cards or board games - Cook a family meal together - Get outside and be active together - Take a family trip to a zoo, museum, beach or park - Create a family book club - Look through old photos together - Build a fort - Have a picnic or campfire - Go bowling or play mini golf



## The AAP’s recommendations for children’s media use:

- **18 months & younger:** avoid use of screen media other than video-chatting.
- **18 to 24 months:** introduce digital media by choosing high-quality programming and co-view with children.
- **2 to 5 years:** limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.
- **6 years & older:** place consistent limits on the types of media used and the duration of time spent on them. Make sure media does not impact health or limit sleep quality.

## East Haddam Garden Club

*Plants for Your Garden... and Goodies for Your Sweet Tooth!*

Don't miss the annual combined sale of the East Haddam Garden Club and the East Haddam Historical Society on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 8:00 am at the EHHS, 264 Town Street. The garden club sale will feature annuals, perennials, vegetables, shrubs and special plants from members' gardens, as well as homemade baked goodies. The EHHS Tag Sale will feature treasures and bargains galore! Our garden club plant sale is a good deal; plants are reasonably priced. You know they grow well locally, because club members dig them from their own gardens. And you can talk to garden club members and get advice on growing what you buy!

This sale is the club's most important fund raiser. The money raised goes toward our civic projects all over town; several are described below.

### EHGC PHOTO CONTEST

The 2017 "Art is Nature – Nature Is Art" photo contest is open to any East Haddam high school student. This contest encourages students to view nature in a unique way. They are asked to photograph a moment in nature that they believe supports the contest theme. The deadline for submitting photos for this year's contest is May 12. There will be prizes for 1st (\$75), 2nd (\$50) and 3rd (\$35) places. For more information, contest guidelines, and entry form: [EHGCphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:EHGCphotocontest@gmail.com). The contest coordinator for the EHGC is Shea Jezek (860-873-2264); Visual Arts Coordinator Deborah Batt is the contact at Nathan Hale-Ray High School. You can also contact Michael Gilroy at either town library for more information.

### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Again this year, the EHGC will be awarding a scholarship to a graduating East Haddam Senior. This year's award will be \$1500. Seniors from Hale-Ray and other area schools (Class of 2017) who are East Haddam residents are eligible. Further information about the application guidelines and process are available from EHGC Scholarship Chairpersons Dora Lyman (860-873-9715) and Ginny Turner (860-873-2986), or from the Hale-Ray Guidance Department.

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Anyone interested in the EHGC is welcome to attend one or more of our monthly meetings to learn more about us. The club currently has 44 members who enjoy being a part of our civic beautification projects (Goodspeed green, Shagbark triangle, etc.) and youth activities (Arbor Day, middle school vegetable and butterfly gardens, as well as the photo contest and scholarship award mentioned previously). We also enjoy learning more about gardening through programs by knowledgeable speakers and visits to special gardens.

We'll have a display at the "Taste of East Haddam" on May 6, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, at the East Haddam Senior Center.

continued on page 24

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**Garden Club... continued from page 23**

Our May 17 meeting will feature a presentation on “Edible Flowers.” In June, our speaker will be James Sirch of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, who will present “A Safe Haven for Pollinators: Creating a Backyard Oasis.” And in July,

we’ll be touring Lavender Pond Farm in Killingworth. Sound tempting? For more information, contact Betty Gross (860-873-8732). Check us out on Facebook and Instagram. Or drop us a note at PO Box 193, East Haddam CT 06423..



New East Haddam Garden Club officers, who will serve two-year terms beginning in May. Left to right: Nancy Dunn (Vice-President), Nancy Seaman (Secretary), Maureen Gillis (President), and Debby Duncan (Treasurer).



EHGC member Ginny Turner introduces guest speaker Harry Link of East Haddam at a recent club meeting. Harry is the owner of “Deciduous Designs by Harry” and is the creator of the Lee May Memorial Garden at the East Haddam Senior Center.

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## Changes to Shoreline Bus Fares

9 Town Transit introduced a new fare structure in January on all public bus service in the region. The changes were necessary to help offset a decrease in funding from the Connecticut Department of Transportation and meet new federal rules.

Cash fares increased to \$1.75 on bus routes and \$3.50 on the Dial-A-Ride services and off-route trips. This is offset by the introduction of a senior and disabled fare, which allows seniors 65 or over and people with disabilities to ride any bus route for \$.85, or \$31 for unlimited trips with a monthly pass.

To qualify for the new senior and disabled fare, a Medicare card or a Connecticut reduced fare I.D. must be shown on boarding. I.D.'s can be obtained by visiting [www.9towntransit.com](http://www.9towntransit.com). Seniors 60 and over residing in the region are still be able to obtain and utilize 9 Town Transit Senior Fare Cards as well.

Another new addition is the U Pass available to Middlesex Community College students. This pass allows students to purchase a monthly unlimited ride pass for only \$35. The pass can be used on any 9 Town Transit, CT Transit or Middletown Area Transit bus route. U Passes are sold only at the Middlesex Community College book store.

9 Town Transit provides four bus routes service the valley-shore region and Dial-A-Ride service to twelve towns. For more information or to purchase passes and tickets, visit [www.9towntransit.com](http://www.9towntransit.com).

## Free Seminars on Insurance

### Legal and Financial Planning for Senior Living

Two free seminars in the series "Your Choices for Senior Living: How to Make the Right Selections" will take place at The Saybrook at Haddam at 1556 Saybrook Road in Haddam, Conn. The first discusses creative insurance options for seniors, and will be held Wednesday, May 31 at 5:30 pm. The next will focus on effective legal and financial planning for seniors and will be held on Thursday, June 22 at 5:30 pm. These events are sponsored by Elder LifeCare Planning, and are presented by Apple Rehab Saybrook, Essex Meadows and The Saybrook at Haddam. Light fare, beverages and desserts will be served. Reservations are required for each event and can be made by calling 860-345-3779.

## Town of East Haddam

7 Main Street ~ P.O. Box K East Haddam, CT 06423

### Administrative Office Building

Main Number: 860-873-5020

Fax: (1st floor) 860-873-5042, (2nd floor) 860-873-5025  
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm,  
Tuesday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to noon

#### Selectman's Office

Emmett Lyman, First Selectman 860-873-5021 [admin@easthaddam.org](mailto:admin@easthaddam.org)  
Linda Zemienieski, Executive Assistant [admin@easthaddam.org](mailto:admin@easthaddam.org)

#### Assessor's Office

Loreta Zdany, Assessor 860-873-5026 [assessor@easthaddam.org](mailto:assessor@easthaddam.org)  
Patty Veselak, Administrative Assistant

#### Building Department

Vacant, Building Official 860-873-5024 [building.dept@easthaddam.org](mailto:building.dept@easthaddam.org)  
Kamey Cavanaugh, Administrative Assistant

#### Chatham Health District

Liz Davidson, Sanitarian 860-873-5101 [liz.davidson@chathamhealth.org](mailto:liz.davidson@chathamhealth.org)

#### Finance Department

Cynthia Varricchio, Finance Director 860-873-5022 [financeadmin@easthaddam.org](mailto:financeadmin@easthaddam.org)  
Dawn Snow, Finance Assistant 860-873-5040 [finance@easthaddam.org](mailto:finance@easthaddam.org)  
Kathy Klinck, Treasurer 860-891-8502

#### Land Use Offices

Jim Ventres, Administrator 860-873-5031 [admin.landuse@easthaddam.org](mailto:admin.landuse@easthaddam.org)  
Zoning Enforcement Officer [zeo.landuse@easthaddam.org](mailto:zeo.landuse@easthaddam.org)  
Nancy Talbot, Administrative Assistant [landuse@easthaddam.org](mailto:landuse@easthaddam.org)

#### Tax Collector's Office

Denise Dill, Tax Collector 860-873-5033 [taxcollector@easthaddam.org](mailto:taxcollector@easthaddam.org)

#### Town Clerk's Office

Deb Denette, Town Clerk 860-873-5027 [townclerk@easthaddam.org](mailto:townclerk@easthaddam.org)  
Beverly Christopher, Assistant Town Clerk

#### Public Works Department

fax: 860-873-6014

Town Garage Hood Lane Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 3:30 pm  
Transfer Station Nichols Road Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday 7:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Elizabeth Lunt, Public Works Administrator 860-873-5023 [pwadmin@easthaddam.org](mailto:pwadmin@easthaddam.org)  
Vacant, Public Works Superintendent [pwsuper@easthaddam.org](mailto:pwsuper@easthaddam.org)  
Shirley Dill, Administrative Assistant [publicworks@easthaddam.org](mailto:publicworks@easthaddam.org)  
Don MacKenzie, Transfer Station Foreman 860-873-5030

#### Other Departments

Don Angersola, Fire Marshal 860-873-5004 [admin@easthaddam.org](mailto:admin@easthaddam.org)  
Brian Auld, Fire Chief 860-891-8400 [firechief@easthaddam.org](mailto:firechief@easthaddam.org)  
Tiffany Quinn, Parks & Recreation Director 860-873-5058 [parkandrec@easthaddam.org](mailto:parkandrec@easthaddam.org)  
Michael Olzacki, Animal Control Officer 860-873-5044 [animalcontrol@easthaddam.org](mailto:animalcontrol@easthaddam.org)  
Economic Development Coordinator 860-891-8503 [edevcoordinator@easthaddam.org](mailto:edevcoordinator@easthaddam.org)  
Craig Mansfield, Emergency Management Director 860-873-5103 [ehaddamemgmt@easthaddam.org](mailto:ehaddamemgmt@easthaddam.org)  
Ronald Turner, Director of Operations 860-873-5090 [ronald.turner@easthaddam.org](mailto:ronald.turner@easthaddam.org)

#### Resident State Trooper - Troop K East Haddam Police

860-465-5400 [police@easthaddam.org](mailto:police@easthaddam.org)  
860-873-5041 [police@easthaddam.org](mailto:police@easthaddam.org)

#### Probate Court

Jennifer Berkenstock, Judge of Probate 860-295-6239  
Linda Neal, Clerk [lneal@ctprobate.gov](mailto:lneal@ctprobate.gov)

#### Registrars of Voters

Lucy Yacovino & Martha Hansen 860-873-5029 [registrars@easthaddam.org](mailto:registrars@easthaddam.org)

#### Senior Services

15 Great Hillwood Road  
Brad Parker, Municipal Agent 860-873-5034 [seniors@easthaddam.org](mailto:seniors@easthaddam.org)  
Patricia Puia, Program Assistant 860-873-5034

#### Food Bank

860-891-8100

Visit our Website at [www.easthaddam.org](http://www.easthaddam.org) for more information, including meeting minutes

# East Haddam Community Lions Charitable Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 328, East Haddam, CT 06423 / [www.ehcl.org](http://www.ehcl.org)

## East Haddam Community Lions Name Bruce Dutch as 2017 Humanitarian

Each year Connecticut's District 23C Lions are asked to nominate a non-Lion who goes above and beyond to make his or her community a better place to live through volunteering, community service, local programs, job opportunities and more.



Bruce Dutch next to cake with all honorees names

This year the East Haddam Community Lions chose Bruce Dutch as 'Humanitarian of the Year.' The Humanitarian Awards luncheon took place on January 21 in Groton, where Bruce received a plaque from Lions District 23C and certificate from State Representative Melissa Ziobron. Ten other Lion-nominated

humanitarians from surrounding towns were honored as well by the Lions Club in their town and State Representative or Senator. Bruce has lived in Moodus for over 30 years and, from the beginning, became involved in community activities. As a young parent, he coached Little League for many years and was also president. Over the years he served on several town boards and commissions, all while raising six children with his wife Frances and starting his own oil business. Dutch Oil & Propane will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017! Bruce is the man behind the beautiful lighted flagpole and flag at Heritage Park, a tribute to his Mom, Elaine, who was a charter member of the Community Lions until she passed away several years ago. He continues to support many organizations including the East Haddam Farmer's Market, Gillette Castle Summer Program, East Haddam Food Bank, Middle and High School's sports programs, Project Graduation and in 2016 he awarded the first annual Dutch Oil Scholarship to a deserving graduating senior.

*Congratulations Bruce!*



Lions Nan & Dan Alexander & Lion Liz Galvin dressed for 'Tea' 2016.

## 'Kentucky Derby' Tea Party

This year's theme is 'Kentucky Derby.' Join us and experience for yourselves the very British treat... Afternoon Tea. Costumes and hats optional... but preferred to set the tone, be it formal or silly, there is a place for each. The fun begins at 2:00 pm on May 13th at St. Stephen's Parish Hall, East Haddam. Tickets are \$25. Our inspired table settings seat eight apiece, so

if you can get a "Gaggle of Girls" together, it will be a great treat

to just sit, be waited upon and have time to talk, laugh and share a lovely tea together. Or you can come alone and meet many new friends. What an ideal "Mother's Day" treat!

There is entertainment, fun and lots of indulgent goodies to eat; you won't be disappointed. Each person will also receive a favor. For information and tickets please call Linda at 860-873-8933 or Diane at 860-434-5611 or visit our website [www.ehcl.org](http://www.ehcl.org). All proceeds are donated back to this Community and Lions Club Sponsored Charities. Tickets go quickly; don't delay, book early - an ideal treat for the ladies in your life.

## 3 New Lions!

In a moving ceremony at the Community Lions' March 28th dinner meeting, Past District Governor Ken Tucker inducted 3 new Lions to add to our growing roster. These new Lions have pledged to uphold the Lions motto 'We Serve.' Welcome Sandy, Dick and Stan!



PDG Ken Tucker, President Diane Bielski sponsoring Stan Bielski, Lion Dena Liedke sponsoring Dick Gerber and Lion Nan Alexander sponsoring Sandy Rand.

## April Fools 5K & ½ Marathon

On a dreary, cold, rainy, sleety April 1st (no joke!), over 150 runners left the East Haddam Senior Center to compete in sanctioned 5K or Half Marathon races. This was the 18th year of the Community Lions April Fools Road Race. The Community Lions thank all their sponsors, particularly our Platinum Sponsors Nathan Hale Pharmacy, Dutch Oil, Staehly Farms and Liberty Bank. Thomas Barlow, age 18, was the first overall male 5K winner with a time of 18:19 and Emily Sienna, age 15, was the first overall female 5K winner with a time of 21:40. Riley Anderson, age 8, finished the 5K with a great time of 24:51. Elijah Healy, age 17, came in as the first male ½ Marathon winner with a time of 1:28:35. Shannon Smith came in as the first female ½ Marathon winner with a time of 1:40:08. Congratulations to everyone!



Emily Sienna & Thomas Barlow



Riley Anderson

# CFMC Grant Will Support a Middlesex County Visual Artist at I-Park

The I-Park Foundation has received a \$1,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Thanks to the grant, I-Park will be awarding one Middlesex County artist a fully funded residency during the 2017 season.

At I-Park, artists live in a renovated 1850s era farmhouse, with private studios and an inspired meal program. They work in a collegial setting with six other artists from various creative disciplines. There is a public OPEN Studios at the end of the residency during which visitors are invited to experience the creative process and artworks developed during the residency. Additional resources include: an extensive system of art and nature trails, ponds, fields, streams, woodlands, miles of stone walls – all coming together to create a retreat-like setting. Also, available: workshop space and access to a wide array of tools, equipment and materials, including I-Park's infamous Junk Trail which is teeming with the accumulated remains of 15 years of prior art installations and other reclaimed materials.

"We are grateful to receive this support from CFMC in order to encourage local artists to participate in our international artists-in-residence program," said I-Park's co-founder and Executive Director, Joanne Paradis. "One of our goals for 2017 is to further our community engagement initiatives and there is no better place to start than by offering a residency to a talented

artist right here in our own community. Our sincere gratitude to Cynthia Clegg, Thayer Talbott and all the members of the grant committee for this generous award. We also invite the public to attend one or more of our many events at I-Park this year, including our internationally recognized Site-Responsive Art Biennale on June 4. See the full event calendar at [www.i-park.org](http://www.i-park.org) or contact our office at 860-873-2468 for information."



2015 May Artists-in-Residence Group Photo – pictured left to right standing: Bianca Pagliai, Marc Satterwhite, Christopher Kondrich, Tammy Salzl. Pictured left to right sitting: Amy Pirkle, Eric Sasson, Razan ALSalah. Photo Credit: I-Park

## Upcoming Events at I-Park

- Saturday, May 20**, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm – Spring Volunteers Day
- Sunday, June 4**, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm – Site-Responsive Art Biennale CT Trails Day: Art & Nature Walk
- Sunday, June 25**, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm – OPEN Studios
- Sunday, July 23**, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm – OPEN Studios




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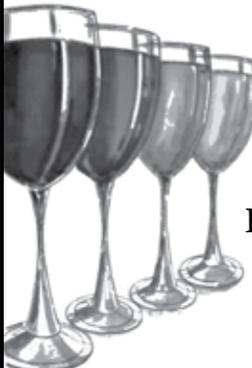
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# Town Office Conversion

*Craig Mansfield, Chairman Municipal Office Building Committee*



**Groundbreaking**

On Thursday March 23, 2017 the Committee was joined by First Selectman Emmett Lyman and members of our professional teams of Silver Petrucelli and Downes Construction for the official project groundbreaking. After several years of work, the renovation of the old Hale-Ray Middle School to town offices has moved from the planning to construction stage of the project.

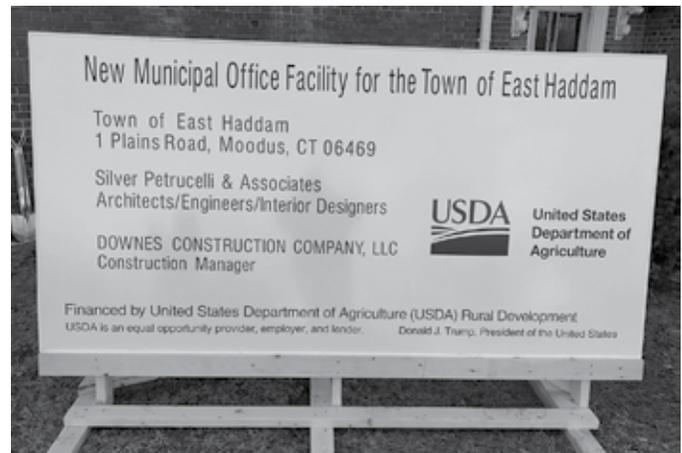
On January 12th, the committee hosted an informational public meeting that was attended by many residents. The committee provided those in attendance an update on the project and presented the approved floor and site plans. Additionally, the committee showed that the schematic design budget, created by Downes Construction, remains within the approved \$15 million the committee has been allocated to complete the renovation.

The project will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 of the project will include the installation of a perimeter fence to secure the site, purchase of several items with long lead-times to procure, the demolition of the Ray section of the building and the full remediation of all hazardous materials from the site. Phase 2 will include completion of the remainder of the project. Downes Construction has held several onsite meetings with potential bidders for the project. The Phase 1 and Phase 2 walkthroughs were attended by over 50 potential tier 1 sub-contractors. Additionally, at the request of the committee, Downes sponsored a local business meeting that was attended by 28 people from local businesses. The committee is committed to ensuring that local businesses are informed of the project and considered as suppliers and sub-contractors on the project.

The committee has reviewed and approved the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Downes Construction to complete Phase 1. A GMP contract (also known as not-to-exceed price) is a cost-type contract where the contractor is compensated for actual costs incurred plus a fixed fee subject to a ceiling price.

The committee was very pleased with the process and is happy to report that Phase 1 is well within the projected budget.

Additionally, all the documents were reviewed by the town attorney, the town's insurance company and US Department of Agriculture. As a reminder, USDA is involved in the project because they have committed to providing the long term financing for the project at a low fixed interest rate. After several months of work by the committee and our professional teams, Phase 1 of the project has been fully approved, contracts executed and construction began the last week of March!



Phase 2 bids and issuing of the GMP is scheduled to occur during the spring and the committee continues to target a substantial project completion date of the end of December 2017.

The Committee normally meets at the Grange Hall on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. We welcome attendance and input from the public. All meeting agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the town's website at [easthaddam.org](http://easthaddam.org). Additionally, you can email [admin@easthaddam.org](mailto:admin@easthaddam.org) or call 860-873-5021 with any questions.

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Kimberly Budnick

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# East Haddam Lions Club

THE ANNUAL LIONS CLUB AUCTION  
SATURDAY, JULY 8TH



It's that time again! The annual auction & tag sale will be on Saturday, July 8th at the East Haddam Grange Hall. The tag sale begins at 8:00 am, the auction begins at 10:00 am.

The Lions Club relies on your generous

donations to make the auction a success. Cars, boats, trailers, and other large items of significant value are in special demand. Donations can be dropped off during the week leading up to the auction.

## Car Raffle Tickets Available Now

Tickets are now available for the annual Car Raffle. Tickets are \$100 each and include free dinner & drinks for you and a guest,

plus the chance to win one of several great prizes – including a \$20,000 Gift Certificate to Gates Automotive Group. The drawing will be held on Monday, June 26th. Contact a Lion for more details.

## Congratulations Senior Leos!

The Lions would like to congratulate the Class of 2017. Your combined total of over 1,000 hours of community service has set a high bar for your successors. Congratulations Talon, Kailee, Nate, Alex, Kira, Owen, Ben, Sarah, Kara, Samantha, and Will. The East Haddam Lions are extremely proud of all that you have accomplished.

## Thank You for Your Support

Thank you to everyone who has supported the club in the past, and who will be supporting the club by attending the Auction in July and the Car Raffle in June. All earnings from these events go directly to good causes all over East Haddam. In the past, proceeds from the annual auction have helped to fund scholarships for local seniors, emergency vehicles for the fire department, holiday food baskets, little league field equipment, aid to the local food & fuel banks, and much more.

# Land Trust Embarks on Big Tree Project

We love trees for all they do to clean our air, stabilize our soil, shelter our wildlife, feed our insects, shade our landscape, and soothe our souls. Amazingly, despite all the ways people alter the environment where we expect trees to grow, many trees mature into sizeable specimens. East Haddam Land Trust (EHLT) seeks to identify these through its Big Tree Project, and invites you to help.

The Big Tree Project wants to know about that oak, pine, dogwood, or other tree that seems particularly large compared with others of the same species. For example, a white oak trunk measuring more than 14 feet around or a flowering dogwood more than 2.75 feet in circumference at 4.5 feet from the ground is a big tree worthy of further investigation.

We urge anyone - a student or school class looking for a nature project, a family seeking outdoor fun, or an individual tree lover – to contact [bigtrees@ehlt.org](mailto:bigtrees@ehlt.org) for more information on the Big Tree Project. We'll help identify the tree species, and offer advice on how to search for Big Trees on open spaces, without stepping on the toes of private property owners.

The Big Tree you find may be large enough for mention in the Notable Trees of Connecticut ([notabletrees.conncoll.edu](http://notabletrees.conncoll.edu)) website and database. The website highlights notable, historically significant, and champion trees by town and by common and scientific name. Alternately, your Big Tree may only be notable locally. Either way it deserves our appreciation and attention through EHLT's Big Tree Project.



EHLT president, Rob Smith, in front of a very large tulip tree.

East Haddam Land Trust protects and preserves land in perpetuity for public enjoyment. Visit [www.ehlt.org](http://www.ehlt.org) to learn more about our monthly hikes and/or paddles, monthly preserve maintenance work parties, and other events, and follow East Haddam Land Trust on Facebook and Instagram.

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## PET ADOPTION EVENT!

Jackson Chevrolet at 660 South Main Street in Middletown is hosting a Pet Adoption event on Sunday May 21 from 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

There will be 10 rescues on site with their adoptables with more to join. This event is RAIN OR SHINE as the facility does have indoor space. Each rescue has its own adoption policies so please visit their respective websites for more information. Rescues currently scheduled to attend are: Big Fluffy Dog Rescue, Angels Among Us Animal Rescue, One More Dog Rescue, Thank Dog Rescue, PAWS New England, Labs4Rescue, Pack Leaders Rescue of CT Protectors of Animals and 3 Bunnies Rabbit Rescue and Cat Tales. Please watch our Facebook page where we will be posting animals that are planning to attend prior to the event! We will also be collecting food, supplies & toys for the rescues in attendance so even if you're not in the market for a new four-legged, please stop by and donate some much needed supplies!

Any questions please contact Heather@jacksonchevrolet.com or call 860.346.9655.



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## East Haddam Leo Club



East Haddam Leo Club Mad Hatter Tea Party, March 2017

by Leo President Sarah Gieseler

The East Haddam Leos will be hosting their first annual Battle of the Boats: Cardboard Boat Race this summer! The race will take place at the East Haddam town beach on July 22nd. There will be three categories: youth, adult, and family. Youth is ages 12 & under, and families must have at least one adult and one child on the boat. There will be guest judges and special awards such as the "Titanic Award" for the boat with the most dramatic sinking.

The Leo club will be selling food all day. Please see the application form for times and cardboard boat regulations. Forms are available at the Gristmill Market and locations all over town – as well as at our website: [www.EastHaddamLeos.com](http://www.EastHaddamLeos.com).

The annual Mother's Day Bake Sale will be on May 13th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Leos will be at several locations across town, including Nathan Hale Pharmacy, Ballek's Garden Center, and Grist Mill Market. There will be a plethora of delicious treats for all the mothers in your life!

The East Haddam Free Public Library and the East Haddam Leo Club will be partnering up on Wednesday, May 3rd to host a Cinco de Mayo Celebration from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. This annual fiesta features games, piñatas, and live animals!

The East Haddam Leo Club is always looking for new Leos! Anyone entering 7th grade or turning 12 years old in 2017 is welcome to join. Leo meetings are held the first Thursday and third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the East Haddam Senior Center. The Leo Club is a great combination of community service and fun. Applications are available online, at the Gristmill Market, or at the Libraries.



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## Anterior Hip Replacement Surgery Aids in Recovery

At Middlesex Hospital, a faster and easier recovery from hip replacement surgery is possible. By approaching the hip from the anterior, an orthopedic surgeon can make an incision in the front of the leg instead of the back. This allows the surgeon to reach the hip by separating the muscles - not by cutting and reattaching them. The result: less trauma to the muscles and a better chance of a faster and easier recovery. Anterior hip replacement surgery allows patients to bend their hip freely immediately after surgery, or as soon as they feel comfortable doing so. By comparison, traditional posterior hip replacement surgery often means limiting a patient's motion for six to eight weeks after surgery.

There are several other benefits to anterior hip replacement surgery. Patients will likely have a smaller incision and less scarring, and they'll also experience reduced pain and have a reduced risk of dislocation. If you have arthritis, hip pain, limited mobility or stiffness, you may be a candidate for anterior hip replacement surgery. You should discuss what surgery option is right for you with your doctor.

Middlesex Hospital is consistently disease-specific care certified by The Joint Commission in hip and knee surgeries. It prepares patients for surgery by offering educational classes before they have a procedure. Nurse navigators are there to help patients throughout the process. For more information about anterior hip replacement surgery at Middlesex Hospital, call 1-800-548-2394.

## Age-Related Vision Loss

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of severe vision loss in adults over the age of 50. This eye disease occurs when there are changes to the macula, a small portion of the retina that's located on the inside back layer of the eye. Commonly, older people develop macular degeneration as a natural part of the aging process. AMD causes loss of central vision and it can occur in two forms: wet and dry.

With macular degeneration, you may experience symptoms such as blurriness, dark areas or distortion of your central vision, or permanent loss of your central vision. It usually does not affect your peripheral vision. For example, with advanced macular degeneration you could be able to see the outline of a clock, yet you may not be able to see the hands of the clock to tell what time it is.

The majority of people with macular degeneration experience the dry form, which does not have a known treatment, but many people benefit from a vitamin regimen. Unfortunately, vision loss cannot be reversed. The less common wet form may respond to lasers and medical injections if caught and treated early. Smoking and high blood pressure are often associated with the wet form of macular degeneration.

If you have been diagnosed with dry macular degeneration, you should use a chart called an Amsler grid every day to monitor your vision. Dry macular degeneration can quickly change into the more damaging wet form. If you notice any change of vision, you should contact your ophthalmologist immediately.

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## Rep. Ziobron Hosts Walk

As part of the 2017 Connecticut Trails Day Weekend, State Rep. Melissa Ziobron will host an educational walk in East Haddam on Sunday, June 4 from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm. The hike, led by Larry Johnson, formerly of Sunrise Resort, will teach hikers about the long history of the property which was once the home to three very successful resorts. Come learn about Connecticut's version of Dirty Dancing! As a state park advocate and a member of the Connecticut General Assembly's Environment Committee, Ziobron invites residents of all ages to join her for this exciting event in our beautiful local state park.

Those attending will walk along the existing paved roadway, where they will meet with former employees and guests to talk about the historic sites and former buildings. Friends of Machimoodus & Sunrise State Parks will also be available to explain about their organization and the future hopes for the park and current offerings. Participants are encouraged to bring kayaks. Quiet Kayak of East Haddam will be available, as an option, to rent kayaks.

Interested participants should meet 1/4 mile from the entrance from Sunrise State Park. Follow the signage for Rep. Ziobron's Trails Day Walk. Please check [www.facebook.com/cthouse34](http://www.facebook.com/cthouse34) for last minute changes due to weather. Connecticut Trails Day is sponsored by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA), which has been a devoted advocate of CT's state park system and natural resources for quite some time. Visit <http://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend> for more information.

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*Resident Doris Whitmore with daughter Beryl enjoying a cup of tea in the country kitchen.*

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#### Weekdays

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Saturday Vigil Mass ~ 5:00 pm  
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Confessions are  
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or by appointment



# Vista Promotes Autism Awareness, Unity Through Art

Members of Vista Life Innovations teamed up with more than a dozen students at Westbrook High School for an interactive art experience in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day on April 2 and Autism Awareness Month throughout April.

Under the direction of Vista Arts Specialist Samantha Listorti, participants painted their own version of a blue lightbulb on individual canvases to illustrate Autism Speaks' international Light It Up Blue autism awareness campaign. The integrated activity included students in grades 10 through 12, fostering a sense of unity among Vista members and Westbrook students.

"It warms my heart to see the continued collaboration between Vista and Westbrook High School," said Lyn Connery, student assistance counselor at Westbrook High School. "When people come together and learn about each other, all the barriers come down."

With campuses in Madison, Westbrook and Guilford, Vista is a nationally accredited post-secondary program that has been supporting the personal success of individuals with disabilities for over 27 years.



Vista believes in community integration through the arts and is proud to count Westbrook High School as a supportive community partner.

Vista Life Innovations is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Vista's mission is to provide services and resources to assist individuals with disabilities achieve personal success. For more information about Vista, please visit [www.vistalifeinnovations.org](http://www.vistalifeinnovations.org).

**Do you have diabetes?**  
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Middlesex Eye Physicians is reminding you of the importance in scheduling an annual diabetic eye exam to monitor any changes in your eye health.

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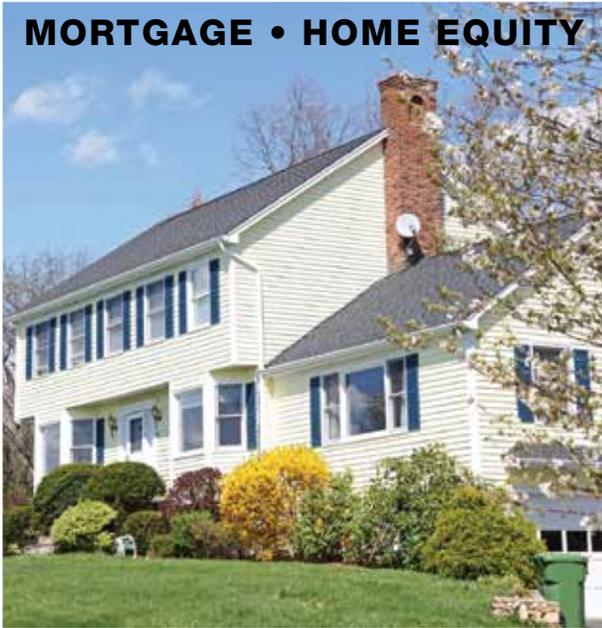


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